Power generation from RGPPL

*299. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power generation from Ratnagiri Gas and Power Pvt. Ltd. has been suspended;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company has expressed its inability to draw the costly naphtha based power from RGPPL;

(d) if so, how the restructuring of Dabhol through RGPPL would be commercially viable; and

(e) if not, the status of revival of RGPPL?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) RGPPL having fulfilled its one time commitment to supply infirm power of 346 million units, to meet the peak summer requirement of Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL) in the absence of further demand for power by MSEDCL from this plant, the power generation has been suspended.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Commercial viability of RGPPL project is based on LNG/ gas as fuel. Full load commercial operations will commence once gas is available. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOPNG) Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) who have been entrusted with the responsibility of sourcing LNG/gas for the plant have indicated that LNG/gas is likely to be available by March, 2007.

Collaborations between India and UK

300. SHRIMATI S.G INDIRA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the best scientific minds from institutions in India and Britain would collaborate in a series of high end research projects under a new multi-million pound programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that a panel would be set up to chalk out a road map for collaboration between India and UK?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At the recently concluded meeting of India-UK Science & Innovation Council, which took place in London on June 26, 2006, a proposal was put forward by the UK side to bring in best scientific minds from institutions in India and Britain to collaborate in a series of high end research projects. The UK side has set aside pound sterling 6.5-8 million to execute such projects. The meeting was attended by an 8-member Indian scientific team led by Hon'ble Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences.

(d) A6-member Committee, comprising 3-members from each side has been constituted to prepare a work plan comprising of specific topics in areas of common interest, mechanisms/modalities of implementation, institutions and the financial details. The Committee is expected to submit its report by October, 2006.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Projects for development of NER

1949. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1965 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th December, 2005 and state:

(a) the development projects out of those referred therein which have been completed by 1st August, 2006; and

(b) the steps taken to expedite the completion of the remaining projects?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) List of the projects completed as on 1.8.2006 are enclosed as Statement *(See* below),

(b) The steps taken to expedite completion of the remaining projects include, *inter alia,* quarterly review by State Chief Secretaries and reviews